

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
NOBORI, Tsutomu et al.

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Application No.: To Be Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Filed: February 9, 2001

For: METHOD FOR DETECTION OF THE
PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF
METHYLTHIOADENOSINE
PHOSPHORYLASE (MTASE) IN A CELL
SAMPLE BY DETECTION OF THE PRESENCE
OR ABSENCE OF MTASE ENCODING
NUCLEIC ACID IN THE CELL SAMPLE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following on page 1, line 9, at the beginning of the sentence "This is a continuation-in-part of...":

At page 1, line 9, after "This is a", please insert --divisional application of and claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/072,914, filed May 4, 1998, which is a--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-9.

REMARKS


With entry of this Amendment, claims 1-9 are canceled without prejudice to further prosecution. Thus, claims 10-16 are pending in the present application with entry of this Amendment. For the Examiner's convenience, the pending claims are provided in an Appendix, attached hereto.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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Appendix
Pending claims with entry of Preliminary Amendment

10. Methylthioadenosine phosphorylase (MTase) encoded by the nucleic acid whose nucleotide sequence is set forth in SEQ. ID NO.1, wherein the nucleic acid is expressed by a recombinant expression vector.
11. A recombinant expression vector containing peptide encoding fragments of the polynucleotide of Claim 7.
12. MTase peptides expressed by the recombinant expression vector of Claim 11.
13. Antibodies produced through immunization of an animal with the MTase peptides of Claim 12.
14. Antibodies according to Claim 13 wherein the antibodies are monoclonal antibodies produced by hybridomas formed from cells of the immunized animals.
15. Synthetic MTase or MTase peptide fragments.
16. Antibodies produced through immunization of an animal with the MTase or MTase peptide fragments of Claim 15.